

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 907

By Bowling

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor country music great
Steve Wariner.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing those artists who devote themselves to their craft, thereby enriching the lives of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Steve Wariner, a successful country music recording artist whose vocal and songwriting prowess, in conjunction with his virtuoso abilities on guitar, have made him one of the genre's most highly regarded contributors since he began his career nearly five decades ago; and

WHEREAS, born on Christmas Day in 1954, Mr. Wariner is an Indiana native but a longtime resident of his adopted state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a veritable prodigy, Steve Wariner was playing guitar at the age of nine, and one year later, he joined his father's country band playing bass; by the time he was in his teens, he was singing publicly, primarily out of necessity, as the bands he played in needed a singer; and

WHEREAS, things took a significant turn for Mr. Wariner when star country vocalist Dottie West caught his show in Indianapolis; she hired him, then seventeen years old, as a bass player and introduced him to the Grand Ole Opry, becoming his earliest mentor and champion. He went on to play bass for Bob Luman when he was twenty-two and guitar legend Chet Atkins when he was twenty-four; and

WHEREAS, Chet Atkins took Steve Wariner on as a protégé and signed him to RCA Records in 1977, recognizing the young man's talents as a singer, songwriter, and instrumentalist; and

WHEREAS, shortly thereafter, Mr. Wariner had garnered his first No. 1 with "All Roads Lead to You"; his career continued in like fashion, with thirteen subsequent No. 1 songs and fifty-five singles on the charts; and

WHEREAS, Steve Wariner has earned four Grammy awards, three for his incredible instrumental contributions and one for his vocal performance on his signature hit "Holes in the Floor of Heaven," which he co-wrote with Bill Anderson; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wariner became a member of the Grand Ole Opry in 1996, coming full circle from one of the earliest important moments in his career when he first performed on that hallowed stage with Dottie West; and

WHEREAS, still a strong presence in country music today, Steve Wariner continues to record and frequents the Grand Ole Opry stage, sometimes playing instrumental tunes first popularized by his late mentor Mr. Atkins; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wariner has made countless contributions to the genre of country music, and it is fitting that he be honored; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and honor Steve Wariner for his illustrious career in country music, extending our sincere best wishes for much success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.